

Chairman Powell,

I'm writing with regard to the prospective vote this coming week on the issue of allowing a single company to own multiple television stations, radio stations, and newspapers in a single town.

This deregulation will benefit a few at the expense of the rest of us. Modifying the ban in most cities on cross-ownership of television and radio stations and newspapers will have serious repercussions for every American. The deregulation of radio, through the 1996 Telecommunications Act, has resulted in a 30% decline of independently-owned radio stations in the United States. Accelerating the disappearance of independent local media by further deregulating television and newspaper ownership will harm the cause of a free press in the United States.

This proposed deregulation is a threat to ideals that I prize about our country--the ideals of openness, free speech, free expression and free discussion, which are the backbone of our Constitution and our democracy.

I ask you to delay the June 2nd vote by the FCC, and provide the opportunity for further public input on this important matter. You hold an important piece of the future of our democracy in your hands.

Thankyou for considering my opinion.